

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/577,543

Applicant(s)

YANAGI ET AL.

Examiner

John Fitzgerald

Art Unit

2856

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to ____.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-31.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date ____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/28/06
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

2. The drawings were received on 28 April 2006. These drawings are accepted.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-31 are allowed over the Prior Art of record.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The primary reasons for allowance of independent claim 1 is the inclusion of the specific limitations of a leak detector of a liquid in a tank, the limitations being a control unit having a pulse voltage generating circuit for applying a single pulse voltage to first and second temperature sensors and generating an output corresponding to a difference between temperatures detected by the first and second temperature sensors; and wherein the unit integrates a difference between output of a leak detecting circuit an its initial value an a calculated value equivalent to the flow rate of the liquid including all of the other recited limitations in combination. As to independent claim 7, the inclusion of a pressure sensor for measuring a level of the liquid, first and second temperature sensors and a heater wherein the sensors output corresponding to a difference between temperatures detected by the first and second temperature sensors, a leak detection control unit

that performs a leakage detection that detects leakage of the liquid in the tank based on the value equivalent to the flow rate which is calculated using an output of a leak detection circuit and a second leakage detection that detects leakage of the liquid in the tank based on the magnitude of a variation rate with respect to time of the level of liquid which is measured by the pressure sensor, along with the other recited elements in combination. As to independent claim 18, the inclusion of a leak detection control unit that detects the specific gravity of the liquid in the tank which is calculated by using an output of a leak detecting circuit in a state wherein a on-off valve is closed, measures the level of the liquid by means of the pressure sensor using the value of the specific gravity detected and thus measuring the variation rate of the level of the liquid with respect to time.

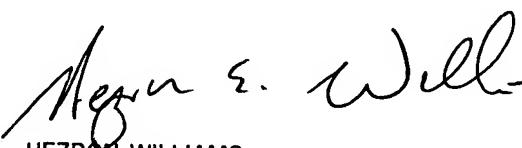
5. None of the Prior Art teach the above limitations in combination with the other recited elements within each of the independent claims. The closest reasonable Prior Art reference is US 5,086,644 to Schendel, which discloses a leak detection device for tanks having measurement tubes adjacent to one another, wherein a flow rate is sensed by a sensor thus indicating a leak present in the tank, however, there are no teachings of the limitations recited above in combination with measurement tubes.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Applicant is invited to review PTO form 892 accompanying this Office Action listing Prior Art relevant to the instant invention cited by the Examiner.
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John Fitzgerald whose telephone number is (571) 272-2843. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron Williams, can be reached on (571) 272-2208. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JF
10/01/2007


HEZRON WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800